

Message Text

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EXDIS

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TALK WITH INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. ON MAY 25, INDONESIAN FONMIN MOCHTAR - ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADORS TO THE U.S. (ASHARI) AND TO THE UN (SANI) - CALLED ON SECRETARY VANCE WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY. TALKS CENTERED ON US-ASEAN RELATIONS AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

2. THE SECRETARY ASKED ABOUT LAW OF THE SEA, WHICH MOCHTAR DESCRIBED AS MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THE PREVIOUS SESSION. HE SAID HE HAD ACTED AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN AMBAS-
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SADOR RICHARDSON AND THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THE UNHAPPINESS OF THE PAST WAS GONE; THE U.S. HAD A REASONABLE POSITION; AND THERE IS GROUNDS FOR CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM. THE U.S. POSITION ON THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND ON ITS DEFENSE INTERESTS IS WELL PROTECTED SO IT CAN AFFORD LESS EMPHASIS ON MINING, A PROBLEM AT THE PREVIOUS SESSION. BY HOLDING THE NEXT SESSION PRIOR TO THE UNGA, THERE IS A

REAL CHANCE OF GETTING AGREEMENT ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT VP MONDALE HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED BY HIS TRIP. MOCHTAR CONSIDERED IT SUCCESSFUL IN BANGKOK AND MANILA AS WELL AS JAKARTA. ASEAN HAD BEEN

PLEASED. THE SECRETARY SAID WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON THIS SUMMER. MOCHTAR SAID THAT ASEAN WANTS IT TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE BUT IS WORRIED LEST IT APPEAR TOO POLITICAL. ASEAN DOES NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE A SUCCESSOR TO SEATO. HE HAD BEEN UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. WANTED ALL OF ASEAN'S FOREIGN MINISTERS TO COME TO WASHINGTON. NOW THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ECONOMIC MINISTERS COULD COME, HIS CONCERNS ARE EASED. THE SECRETARY SAID WE HAVE NO PREFERENCE AS TO WHICH MINISTER OR MINISTERS SHOULD REPRESENT ASEAN. AT MANILA, ONLY THE PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PRESENT. ALL OTHERS WERE ECONOMIC. THE ILLUSTRATIVE AGENDA SHOWS THAT THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. WE WILL HAVE SECRETARY OF TREASURY BLUMENTHAL, SECRETARY OF ENERGY SCHLESINGER, AND OTHERS. ECONOMIC ISSUES HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT EVEN FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, MOCHTAR SAID THAT HE SEES THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF SEASIA AS DOING WELL, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT INDOCHINA IS IN A BIT OF A MESS. THAILAND IS A STRONG ELEMENT RATHER THAN A DOMINO, THANKS TO ASEAN'S SUPPORT AND A GOOD GOVERNMENT. IT IS A RACE AGAINST TIME TO DEVELOP THE RURAL AREAS IN THAILAND AND REDUCE THE GAP WITH BANGKOK BUT THE KRIANGSAK GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT POLICIES AND THE YOUNGER MILITARY OFFICERS ARE TRYING TO HELP THE WHOLE COUNTRY, RATHER THAN ACTING AS AN ELITE, A SERIOUS PAST PROBLEM.

5. MOCHTAR THEN URGED THE U.S. TO DO MORE TO HELP, FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE MODERATE NON-ALIGNEDS WHO ARE TRYING TO REDUCE CUBA'S INFLUENCE FROM INSIDE THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. THE RADICALS ALWAYS SEEM TO DOMINATE THE MEETINGS. AFTER THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AT DAKAR, INDONESIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND SOMALIA WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAD A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AT KABUL TO FORMULATE AN ACTION PLAN TO DEAL WITH CUBA. THE TIMING OF THE COUP IN KABUL, ALTHOUGH NOT THE FACT OF THE COUP, MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MEETING. NOW IT IS TIME "TO PICK UP THE PIECES" AND MOCHTAR WILL MEET WITH THE SOMALIS, YUGOSLAVS AND OTHERS AT THE UN. SECRETARY VANCE SAID THAT THE U.S. IS DOING WHAT IT CAN AND THAT HE HAS

ALREADY TALKED TO THE YUGOSLAV AND SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTERS
ABOUT THIS. ALSO, THE U.S. IS SUPPORTING THE FRENCH AND
BELGIANS IN ASSISTING ZAIRE. MOCHTAR SAID THAT MANY ARAB
AND AFRICAN DELEGATES AT DAKAR HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT U.S.
POLICY. THE ACTION IN ZAIRE IS POSITIVE. THE U.S. IS A
GREAT POWER AND CANNOT ESCAPE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.
INTERESTINGLY, THE LIBYANS WHO SEEM TO BE FINANCING THE

THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS IN SOMALIA, SEEMED NERVOUS AT DAKAR,
AS IF THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT HAVING GONE TOO FAR. VANCE

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